

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03227 111552Z

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 DHA-02 USIA-06 ORM-02 IO-13 /049 W

-----120430Z 126397 /63

R 111425Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3227

ROME FOR INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE SHUM PFOR SREF

SUBJECT: TCP PROCESSING OF RECENT REPATRIATES TO USSR -GALSTIAN
FAMILY

REF: 76 MOSCOW 18474, 76 MOSCOW 17787

1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY TO 76 MOSCOW 18474 WHICH REQUESTED GUIDANCE IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR TCP OF SOVIET CITIZENS WITH EXIT PERMISSION FOR US WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF USSR FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME. IN PARTICULAR, REFTEL REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH INS, AUTHROIZE EMBASSY TO ISSUE TCP PRO FORMA STAMPS TO HAIKAJ GALSTIAN FAMILY (76 MOSCOW 17787).

2. GALSTIAN FAMILY MOVED TO USSR FROM IRAN IN 1972 HOPING FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE ARMENIAN "HOMELAND". GALSTIAN TOLD CONSOFF THAT THIS WAS, IN RETROSPECT, THE MOST UNFORTUNATE DECISION OF HIS LIFE. THE FAMILY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY ENCOUNTERED DISCRIMINATION AS NEWCOMERS AMONG A MINORITY SOVIET NATIONALITY. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE OR CULTURE NOR WERE THEY PREPARED FOR THE REPRESSIVE ASPECTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY. NEVERTHELESS, GALSTIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03227 111552Z

AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE USSR AND WERE REQUIRED TO ASSUME SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. THEY WERE, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO SOVIET LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES, INCLUDING RESTRICTIVE REGULATIONS COVERING EMIGRATION.

3. WHEN THE FAMILY APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED EXIT VISAS, GALSTIAN LOST HIS JOB AND HIS CHILDREN WERE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO ATTEND

SCHOOL. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FOREIGN TRAVEL PASSPORTS, THE FAMILY HAD TO GIVE UP THEIR APARTMENT. AT THIS POINT, THE EMBASSY BECAME AWARE OF THEIR RECENT REPATRIATION FROM IRAN AND REFERRED THE CASE TO THE DEPARTMENT. DURING THE INTERVENING THREE MONTHS, THE PLIGHT OF THE GALSTIAN FAMILY HAS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. THEY ARE FORCED TO EXPEND MONEY FOR DAILY LIVING EXPENSES WHILE TRYING TO PRESERVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS SHOULD THEIR CASE BE FAVORABLY RESOLVED. THEY ARE LIVING IN A MOSCOW HOTEL WHERE THE CONDITIONS ARE PARTICULARLY TRYING FOR THE FAMILY'S ELDERLY PARENTS AND SMALL CHILDREN.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TCP CRITERIA, GALSTIAN CASE APPEARS TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR TCP. ALL MEMBERS OF FAMILY ARE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAVE RECEIVED EXIT VISAS FOR THE US. THEY HAVE NO FUTURE IN SOVIET SOCIETY AND ARE FORCED TO EXIST ON THEIR SAVINGS WITHOUT HOME OR JOB. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AN ADEQUATE AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT FROM RELATIVES IN THE US WHO ARE ALIENS LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE. MOREOVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY LONGSTANDING CRITERION CONCERNING LENGTH OF TIME TCP APPLICANTS MUST HAVE LIVED IN THE USSR. CERTAINLY THE GALSTIAN FAMILY WERE AWARE OF NO SUCH RESTRICTIONS WHEN THEY APPLIED FOR EXIT VISAS TO THE US.

5. THE PLIGHT OF THE GALSTIAN FAMILY PRESENTS US AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE WILL NOT PERMIT TECHNICAL, BUREAUCRATIC CONSIDERATIONS TO DICTATE OUR APPROACH TO SOLUTION OF A CONCRETE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. WE ARE UNABLE TO SEE HOW DISTINCTIONS CONCERNING LENGTH OF TIME LIVED IN THE USSR ARE REALLY RELEVANT TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOVIET CITIZENS WHO ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03227 111552Z

TO OBTAIN EXIT VISAS. WE GIVE NO CREDENCE TO ARGUMENT THAT SHORT-TERM RESIDENTS EMIGRATED TO USSR AS DELIBERATE PRELIMINARY STEP TOWARD EMIGRATION TO US, HOPING TO EVADE US EMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS. EMBASSY THEREFORE URGES THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHROIZE ISSUANCE OF PRO FORMA STAMPS TO GALSTIAN FAMILY SO THAT THEY MAY DEPART THE USSR FOR TCP IN ROME. IN VIEW OF FAMILY'S INCREASINGLY DESPERATE SITUATION, AN EXPEDITIOUS REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REFUGEES, INSTRUCTIONS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW03227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0442
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770369/aaaacisp.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4dc9bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 18474, 76 MOSCOW 17787
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3136327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TCP PROCESSING OF RECENT REPATRIATES TO USSR -GALSTIAN FAMILY
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, SREF, US, UR, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4dc9bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009